

REMARKS

Obviousness Rejection

Claims 1 - 4, 6 - 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. (US 2003/0146532) in view of the article entitled "Electrospun nanofibrous structure: A novel scaffold for tissue engineering" by Wan-Ju Li et al.

In response, Applicants note initially that the Examiner indicates that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the porous bioresorbable material having interconnected pores of Chen et al. to make a nanofibrous matrix of fibers having a diameter of 0.5 to 0.8 microns as suggested by the article.

However, Applicants submit that this is not the case.

According to Chen, it is crucial for the solution containing bioresorbable polymer and the low molecular weight oligomer to contact the coagulant to form a porous bioresorbable material having uniform interconnected pores. See paragraphs [0038] - [0042] on the attached page from US 2003/0146532 A1.

Compared to this, according to the present invention, the porous fiber is prepared by electrospinning the solution comprising hydrophobic solvent, the hydrophobic solvent-soluble polymer, and the organic compound having a plurality of hydroxyl groups. Namely, there is no process where the polymer solution contacts any kind of coagulant.

Knowing these facts, an ordinarily skilled artisan would not have adopted an electrospinning method in place of Chen's method, because porous material cannot be expected where there is no process for the polymer solution to contact some coagulant.

However, according to the present invention, a porous fiber having internal pores and an average diameter of 0.1 - 20 microns can actually be prepared through unknown mechanism.

Thus, Applicants submit that the present invention is not obvious over the cited art, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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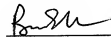
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Respectfully submitted,



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